

## Claims

1. (original) A filling material for use with paving flags and the like comprising at least one base material, at least one binder, at least one cross-linking agent, a solvent and at least one cure retarder.
2. (original) A material according to claim 1, wherein the base is a granular material having a particle size in the range from 0.1 to 6.0mm.
3. (currently amended) A material according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the base material is selected from any of the following either along or in combination: silica, sand, crushed glass, granite and basalt.
4. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the base material constitutes from 95 to 99% ~~w/w~~ by weight of the filling material.
5. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the binder is a blend of drying oils of vegetable or synthetic origin.
6. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the binder is selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: polybutadiene, alkyd resin and linseed oil.
7. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the binder constitutes from 1 to 5% ~~w/w~~ by weight of the filling material.
8. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the solvent is an aliphatic and/or aromatic hydrocarbon solvent.
9. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the solvent is white spirit.
10. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the solvent constitutes from 0.1 to 2% ~~w/w~~ by weight of the filling material.
11. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent is selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: cobalt octoate, cobalt zirconium complexes or manganese salts.
12. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the retarder is selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: terpene oil, pine oil or methyl ethyl ketoxime.

13. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the retarder constitutes from 0.00005 to 0.05% ~~w/w~~ by weight of the filling material.

14. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the material does not cure on immediate exposure to oxygen.

15. (currently amended) A material according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein, once cured, the material is permeable to water and oxygen.

16. (original) A method for preparing a filling material for use with paving flags and the like comprising the steps of: blending together a retarder and solvent with a binder and adding to this at least one base material.